

KEARSLEY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

For 1909.

BY

J. C. EAMES, M.D.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

AND

GEORGE WALSH,

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.


ISSUED BY

THE KEARSLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,

MARCH, 1910.

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Medical Officer's Report.

BARNFIELD HOUSE,

STONECLOUGH,

March 10th, 1910.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Kearsley Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting my Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of your district during 1909. It is the 25th of a series, and the most satisfactory. All our rates—Birth, Death, Zymotic and Infantile—are better than before. During the 25 years much time, care, and money has been spent on attempts to create this good result, and undoubtedly with effect. But I must confess I do not so much attribute it to them as simply to the climatic conditions. It is the cold damp Summer and Autumn, which kept down the Infantile Diarrhœa and Mortality, we must thank.

In looking back to 1885, many changes are of course perceptible, and they are generally for the better as regards the moral, material, and physical state of the people. The men were then, as now, chiefly employed in the mines, but they were worse educated and of a rougher type. "Pay Monday" had indeed ceased being observed, but many of its drinking and gambling habits remained. The average cottage had no paper on the wall, no carpet or oilcloth on the floor, very little furniture and that of the poorest kind, no piano, pictures, or attempt at ornament or even cleanliness. The absence of these is now exceptional, even pianos being twenty times as numerous as then. The lower Death rate is the best proof of improvement in the physical state. For the five years from 1885 it averaged 17·5, for the five ending with 1909 only 14·1.

The Sanitary state is also better. Damp houses, wet, broken down, and over-full privies, broken and badly-connected slop pipes, untrapped gullies, unpaved and dirty yards, then common, are now rare.

The number of Deaths in the district during 1909 was 121, 61 males and 60 females ; 30 were of children under 1, 11 between 1 and 5, 3 between 5 and 15, 5 between 15 and 25, 40 between 25 and 65, and 32 over 65. This gives a rate per 1,000 of 12·3, against 15·4 in 1908, and an average for the previous ten of 16. Sixty-five occurred in the first half of the year and fifty-six in the second. It is very unusual for this distribution, but the same thing happened in 1907, which was a year also noted for its cold Summer and the absence of Diarrhœa in children. Bronchitis and Pneumonia caused 28 against 21 in 1908, Heart Disease 10 against 14, Consumption 8 against 10, Enteric Fever and Accidents 5 each against 3 and 6, Measles and Diarrhœa 3 each against 0 and 19, Whooping Cough and Cancer 2 each against 7 and 5.

The Infantile Mortality, or proportion of children born in the district dying under a year old to 1,000 Births, is 108 against 188 in 1908, 114 in 1907 (our previous best record), and an average for the last ten years of 179. It is a real pleasure not to have to make excuses and give reasons for a poor report on this subject. We shall not often, however, enjoy (?) a Summer like last, and it is only by remembering past experiences and by close attention to all Sanitary matters, that we can hope to have, in the future, no reason to fall back on them.

The Births during the year were 276, 142 males and 134 females, against 228 in 1908, and an average for the previous ten of 265. This gives a rate of 28·1 per 1,000. It is the highest since 1903, and the regular decline from that time has at length been checked. So far so good. But on looking back to the five years from 1885 to 1889 I find

the number of Births averaged 279. As the population was then only about 7,500 the rate was 37·1. We thus have an excess of Births over Deaths in the district of 155, the largest for 17 years. In 1908 it was only 77, and the average for the previous ten was 115.

The Zymotic Rate from the seven principal infectious diseases is 1·6 against 3·2 in 1908 and an average for the last ten years of 2·6. To the five deaths from Enteric Fever nearly half of it is due, and they are particularly to be regretted. I can only once again assign the prevalence of privy middens as the chief cause, and again strongly advise the substitution of water closets. I believe, however, that several of the cases were contracted out of the district, and others due to the eating of infected shell-fish.

Measles with its 3 deaths helps largely in keeping up this rate. It prevailed chiefly in the Kearsley Moor district during May and June, and the Schools there were closed for it. The same thing happened just a year before, and is a very unsatisfactory way of treating the matter.

Scarlet Fever was first notified in April, then in August and every month since. There were only 22 cases in all, one sent to Hospital, and no deaths. I can again congratulate you on the success of Home treatment. Under it, mild cases, and nearly all are now mild, remain mild. The danger of infection is less than if the case be made more severe by treatment along with others in Hospital. The rubbing over of the body with oil helps greatly to prevent infection, and I am pleased to see some towns now using it instead of isolation.

Notifications were also received of 16 cases of Enteric Fever, 6 of Diphtheria, and 3 of Erysipelas. This gives a total of 47 against 56 and 76 in the two previous years.

On our Annual Round last Autumn your Nuisance Inspector and I found the usual unsatisfactory state of matters in the Cemetery-road district. Dale-street was unpaved and the sewer still open. In Albert-street, however, several ashpits had been re-built and new doors supplied. In Clammerclough several houses had new yards and W.C's, but at 61 these were badly wanted, the privy having no door or proper seat. In Albert-street several ashpits had been re-built and new doors, &c., supplied. The tripe shop in Higher Market-street, always a cause of complaint, was much worse than usual. A stable had been placed at one end without a proper dividing wall. Tubs full of dirty clothes for washing were close to others in which food was in course of preparation, and the yard dirty and full of rubbish. In High Stile-street the privy at No. 4, so often complained of, had been done away with and a W.C. substituted. This was also the case at 2, 4, and 6, Carter-street, another congested area. Walton Place again dirty. This chiefly due to the habits of the tenants, and want of control over the children. In my previous report I found matters much improved but pointed out the difficulty of keeping them so. Constant inspection and pressure the only way. Considerable improvement found in Old Hall-street. The houses 1 to 19, last year condemned, had been thoroughly gone through and made as clean and healthy as back-to-back houses can be. W.C's and dry ash bins had been substituted for the old privies, the windows made to open, the walls whitewashed, paving and flagging of the yards and approaches. Nos. 52 to 58, had W.C's also. In Fallow's-court there had been whitewashing and new windows. In Thomas-street new spouting and whitewashing required. In back Church-street the sewerage and paving still unattended to. Oakes-street as before with dirty yards and badly in need of paving. Turner-street ditto. The congested corner in Bagot-street, however, greatly improved, Nos. 58 and 60 having W.C's provided. In Seddon-square a very small and leaking ashpit found.

The yard next Seddon's Bakery still too small. Kearsley Green greatly improved, new main and branch sewers having been made, and the surface now dry and levelled. The privy accommodation in Parsonage-court, Fletcher-street, and Chapel-street still as before, too small. In Fletcher-street great overcrowding also found. Back Edward-street had been paved and sewered and six more W.C's provided. Three also to the old houses 14 to 18 Market-street.

SCHOOLS.—No alteration found in these. The unsatisfactory state of the yards and ventilation in most still there. Their Sanitary arrangements have been made good, and a small expenditure would remedy the evils now complained of. This can hardly be hoped for whilst they are expecting total closure by the Education Department.

Slaughter-houses and Bake-houses found clean and good. Attempts had been made to re-open one of the former in a most unsuitable situation, but happily without success. In only one, however, was there found a proper galvanized iron bin for the offal. These should be generally adopted.

Cow-sheds and Dairies also fairly good. All now have accommodation for storing the milk, but at only one (Walker's) was there a proper arrangement for cooling the milk as soon as it was taken from the cow. The cattle still require in general more attention to grooming and keeping clean. Ventilation also often defective, the openings intended for it, and all others, being stopped up. This is done under the idea that the warmer the cattle are kept the more milk they give. Even if this is so, the deterioration in their health, and danger of tuberculosis, must more than cancel the benefit derived.

Factories and Workshops found satisfactory, the two causes of complaint the previous year having been abated.

SMOKE NUISANCE.—Not quite so bad as in former years. It is now chiefly our neighbours and house fires we have to thank for it.

Food, and especially meat, has been inspected. One carcase, the internal organ of another, and the liver of a third, were found tuberculous and destroyed.

The County Medical Officer recommends the addition of Ophthalmia Neonatorum (Inflammation of the eyes of new born children), to the list of Notifiable diseases. This is desirable, though the number of cases is not now a twentieth of what it was 25 years ago. This chiefly due to the better education and training of midwives.

In conclusion, the chief points to which I should like to call your attention are help in the substitution of water closets for privy middens; the paving of many side streets—Oakes, Rutter, Turner, Lindley, Baker, and Tonge, in particular; and the need of a larger number of houses with three bed-rooms and a bath-room.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

J. C. EAMES.

TABLE 1.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1909 and previous Years.

KEARSLEY URBAN DISTRICT.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non Residents regis- tered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents Registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett deaths at all ages belonging to the District.	
				Under 1 year of age		At all Ages.					Number.	*Rate.
		Number.	*Rate.	Number.	Births Registered. Rate per 1000	Number.	*Rate.					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1899	10000	279	27·9	52	186	162	16·2				162	16·2
1900	10000	287	28·7	53	184	156	15·6			1	157	15·7
1901	9350	254	27·1	58	208	155	16·5			4	159	17·3
1902	9400	294	31·2	46	156	150	15·9			3	150	16·2
1903	9400	301	32·2	57	127	176	18·7			4	180	19·1
1904	9500	257	27	59	229	167	17·5			4	171	18
1905	9500	243	25·5	42	172	134	14·1			4	138	14·5
1906	9600	259	26·9	43	166	151	15·7			1	152	15·8
1907	9600	253	26·3	29	114	128	13·3			6	134	13·9
1908	9750	228	23·3	43	188	151	15·4			5	156	16
Averages for years 1899-1908	9620	265	27·5	48	179	153	15·9			4	156	16·2
1909	9800	276	28·1	30	108	121	12·3			1	122	12·4

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 996.

Total population at all ages, 9,218. Number of inhabited houses, 1,883. } At Census
Average number of persons per house 4·8. } of 1901.

TABLE III.
KEARSLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1909.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in whole District.						Total Cases removed to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital of Patients removed from this District.
	At Ages—Years.							
	At all Ages.	Under 1	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.			65 and upwards.
Small Pox ..								
Cholera ..								
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup).....	6	1	4			1	1	
Erysipelas ..	3					3		
Scarlet Fever.....	22	3	18		1			1
Typhus Fever ..								
Enteric Fever ..	14	2	3		4	5		
Relapsing Fever ..								
Continued Fever ..	2	1	1					
Puerperal Fever.....								
Plague ..								
Totals.....	47	7	26		5	9		2

Isolation Hospitals—Ladywell Sanatorium, Eccles. Small-pox, Ainsworth. Total available beds, unlimited. Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated—Scarlet Fever, Enteric Fever, Small-pox.

TABLE IV.
KEARSLEY URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during Year 1909.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in or belonging to whole District at subjoined Ages.						
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
Small-pox							
Measles	3		3				
Scarlet Fever							
Whooping Cough.....	2	1	1				
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup).....	1		1				
Croup							
Fever. { Typhus	5			1	1	3	
{ Enteric							
{ Other continued							
Epidemic influenza							
Cholera							
Plague							
Diarrhœa	3	3					
Enteritis	1					1	
Gastritis	1					1	
Puerperal Fever							
Erysipelas							
Phthisis (Pulm. Tuberculosis)	8					8	
Other tubercular diseases ...	2	1	1				
Cancer, malignant disease ...	2					1	1
Bronchitis	15	3		1	1	6	4
Pneumonia.....	13	3	2	1	2	4	1
Pleurisy							
Other diseases of Respiratory organs.....							
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver							
Venereal diseases							
Premature birth	1	1					
Diseases and accidents of parturition							
Heart diseases	10		1			7	2
Accidents	5	1	1			2	1
Suicides							
Old Age	15						15
Cong. Debility	11	11					
All other causes	24	6	1		2	7	8
All causes.....	122	30	11	3	6	40	32

TABLE V.
KEARSLEY URBAN DISTRICT.
Infantile Mortality during the Year 1909.

Cause of Death.		Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-2 months.	2-3 months.	3-4 months.	4-5 months.	5-6 months.	6-7 months.	7-8 months.	8-9 months.	9-10 months.	10-11 months.	11-12 months.	Total Deaths under One year.
All Classes.	{ Certified ...	6	1	1	3	11	3	5	3	2	2	2				1		29
	{ Uncertified ...							1										1
Common Infectious Diseases:—																		
{ Small-pox																		
{ Chicken-pox																		
{ Measles.....																		
{ Scarlet Fever																		
{ Diphtheria: Croup																		
{ Whooping Cough										1								1
Diarrhœal Diseases:																		
{ Diarrhœa, all forms								1		1						1		3
{ Enteritis																		
{ (not tuberculous)																		
{ Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh																		
Wasting Diseases:—																		
{ Premature Birth ...					1	1												1
{ Congenital Defects		2				2	1											3
{ Injury at Birth.....																		
{ Want of Breast-milk																		
{ Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus		3	1		2	6			2		1							9
Tuberculous Diseases:																		
{ Tuberculous																		
{ Meningitis...												1						1
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases.....																		
Meningitis (not Tuberculous) ...								1										1
Convulsions		1				1	1	1										3
Bronchitis.....							1	1				1						3
Pneumonia								2	1									3
Suffocation, overlying				1		1												1
Other Causes											1							1
		6	1	1	3	11	3	6	3	2	2	2				1		30

Population estimated to middle of 1909—9,800.
INFANTS.—Births in the year—276. Deaths in the year—30.
Deaths from all causes at all ages—122.

Kearsley Urban District Council.

Inspector of Nuisances' Report.

COUNCIL OFFICES, KEARSLEY,
FARNWORTH, 1910.

To the Chairman and Members of the Kearsley Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

In submitting to you my Ninth Annual Report, I wish to state that a large portion of the undermentioned work has been carried out through my visiting the owners and persons responsible for the sanitary condition of the premises, and pointing out the necessity of the work required to be done. In a great many cases the work has been carried out without the necessity of serving legal notices.

Under the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Water Closets are now required to all new property. In two cases additional closet accommodation has been required in the form of Water Closets in existing property. In all cases where additional closet accommodation is required for existing houses, Water Closets are being insisted upon.

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES DEALT WITH.

Number of Nuisances abated	...	...	...	423
Notices served	...	...	...	128
Letters written respecting Nuisances	...	...	...	56

DESCRIPTION OF NUISANCES DEALT WITH.

To open, clean out, and flush choked drains	...	22
Construct proper drains	...	89
Fix stench trapped gullies	...	80
Repair broken slop pipes	...	18
Yards flagged or paved	...	18
Fill up and repair insanitary ashpits	...	55
Limewash, cleanse and purify houses on the certificate of the Medical Officer of Health	...	17
Defective easing troughs and fall pipes repaired	...	23
Water closets provided in place of privies	...	23
Privies re-built	...	24
Miscellaneous Nuisances	...	72
Total	...	441

FOOD INSPECTION.

Slaughter-houses, Fish, Fruit, and Butchers' Shops have been periodically inspected. The entire carcase of one cow, found to be affected by tuberculosis, was condemned and destroyed. In another case it was found necessary to destroy the internal organs of a carcase very slightly affected with a similar disease. In a third case, the liver of an ox was destroyed as unsound.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There were 47 cases of Infectious Disease reported during 1909. Two cases being removed to Hospital, one each of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria.

Number of Notifications	...	...	...	...	47
Houses re-visited	...	...	...	...	180
Houses fumigated	...	...	...	...	64

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFICATIONS, 1909.

DISEASE.	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901
Scarlet Fever				2				2	4	8	4	2	22	35	53	13	18	90	55	25	97
Enteric Fever	3						1	1	6	2	1		14	17	13	7	8	5	22	15	44
Diphtheria	1		1		2	1			1				6	1	4	5	2	14	21	8	5
Membranous Croup														2				3		2	
Erysipelas.....			1		2								3	1	4	3	1	5	6	3	3
Puerperal Fever ...															2		1	2		2	
Continued „ ...											1	1	2			1		1			
Small Pox																			1		
Totals.....	4		2	2	4	1	1	3	11	10	6	3	47	56	76	29	30	120	105	55	149

I have visited all the cases of Infectious Disease reported as early as possible, and given printed and verbal instructions as to the proper means of isolation of the patients; also as to the disinfection of the clothing and surroundings, and carried out any instructions of the Medical Officer of Health. At the termination of each case the house was fumigated, and all necessary steps taken to prevent the spread of the disease.

Careful attention has been paid to the drains, privies, and milk supply, and defects found have been remedied.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP.

These have been inspected at intervals, and also along with the Medical Officer of Health. Three cases were found in need of limewashing, and one of proper ventilation, but verbal intimation in each case had the desired effect.

DAIRIES COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

These have been regularly inspected. There has been no cause for complaint.

I am

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE WALSH,

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.



